

From: SarahMcGiffert

Affiliation:

Address: 11845 Sterling Panorama Terrace
Austin, Texas, 78738

Comment: Northeast NPR-A Planning Area

Dear Northeast Planning Area,

1

I am writing to express my adamant opposition to Alternative B (Preferred Alternative) and Alternative C of the Amended Integrate Activity Plan for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska. I ask that the BLM offer a new alternative that protects the critical wildlife habitat of Teshekpuk Lake. At the very least, I urge the BLM to implement Alternative A, the "No Action" Alternative.

2

The current "Preferred Alternative" is a complete reversal of the BLM's 1998 plan, in which 87 percent of the planning area is open to leasing and 600,000 acres are off limits around Teshekpuk Lake to protect important habitat and subsistence use for caribou and waterfowl.

My concerns with selecting either Alternative B or Alternative C are:

003
Impact

* Scientific evidence indicates that significant impacts could occur to fish and wildlife if more of this area is opened to oil development.

004
Birds

* Teshekpuk Lake and its surrounding wetlands is a vital tundra-wetland complex in the circumpolar Arctic that is home to thousands of waterfowl and caribou. Tens of thousands of birds, including brant, greater white-fronted geese, Canada and Snow geese gather in the Teshekpuk wetland system to molt their flight feathers and are thus vulnerable to human disturbances. The 45,000-animal Teshekpuk Lake Caribou Herd will be threatened by development. This would have an impact on many Alaska Natives who depend on the herd as a subsistence resource.

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Subsistenc

006
Basic

* America's proven oil reserves amount to just 3 percent of the world's oil reserves, but the US is responsible for 25 percent of the world's oil consumption each year. Opening the Teshekpuk Lake area to drilling will not reduce America's dependency on foreign oil. Nor will it reduce the price of gasoline.

007
Basic

* The oil and gas industry fails to use all the leases it is given. Last year, the industry used only 71 percent of the leases made available to it.

8

Instead of opening up more of the area to leasing and oil and gas development, the BLM should provide a balanced, science-based approach to energy development and environmental protection. The Teshekpuk Lake and Colville River Special Areas should be permanently protected. At a very minimum, the BLM should adopt Alternative A, the "No Action" Alternative, which retains current protections for the critical fish and wildlife habitats around Teshekpuk Lake.

Sincerely,

Sarah McGiffert

Website Comment **187460**

187460 (Cont'd)

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Attached: None